Batt Family

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A Few Pages
from the History of the
BATT FAMILY
1775-1928

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John Batt and his wife, Mary, were born about 1775 and died during the year of 1867.

They lived and reared their family of eleven children in Hamshire, England. One week after John Batt died, his wife, Mary, died also.

Of the eleven children, six came to America and five stayed in England.

The five in England were: William, batchelor; Stephen, large family; Mary, large family; Eliza, large family, and George, no family.

Those coming to America, whose history we have are: James, married to Martha Stacy; John, married Anna Allen; David, married Hannah Ellis; Frederick, married Ann Forder; Eli, married Ann Henwood; Thomas, batchelor.

James Batt, the oldest son of John Batt, Hamshire, England, married Martha Stacy, 1825.

James Batt was born February 9th, 1806; died September 12th, 1887.

Martha Stacy Batt was born May 5th, 1806; died September 24th, 1887.

They were married in 1825 and came with their family to America in 1850.

Children: William, Eliza and Emily, twins; Stephen, Rhoda, George and Enos.

In the fall of 1850, James Batt and David Batt with their wives and eight children left Hamshire, England, for America. After six weeks and two days on the ocean, they landed at New Orleans, La.

Coming by water from New Orleans to New Albany, required ten days. They went from New Albany to Pekin, Indiana, in a freight car and from Pekin, Indiana, to Salem, their destination, in a wagon.

William Batt, the oldest son of James Batt, was born February 24th, 1826, in Hamshire; married Verlinda Jane Kirby, January 15th, 1855.

— William Batt died June, 1903. His wife, Verlinda Batt, died April, 1903.

They had eight children: Clara, Emma, Austin, George, Dora, Hattie, Lillie Marion and Charles Stacy Batt. female

Lillie Marion was born July 19th, 1869; married John Frederick Kurfess, April 5th, 1887.

Wd Dadsaunt

dads cousins

Three children were born: Mabel Verlinda, April 27th, 1888; William Fredric Kurfess, October 21st, 1889; Leland Stacy Kurfess, November 18th, 1894.

Mabel Verlinda Kurfess was married to William Holland Winterrowd, April 5th, 1911.

Two children were born: Marion, April 29th, 1915; Jane, April 5th, 1920.

Fredric Kurfess married Ardis Ade, October 1st, 1921.

Two children were born: John, January 10th, 1923; James, September 4th, 1926.

When the Centennial year of Salem, Indiana, was celebrated in September, 1915, the only one of the Batt family living that made the trip from England in 1850, was Eliza Batt Pickler, one of the twin daughters of James and Martha Batt.

The Editor of the Salem Democrat of that date had a most interesting interview with her and we will give the story that she told in her own words.

Mrs. Eliza Batt Pickler is a native of Hamshire, England. She and her twin sister Emily were born in the little village of Wield in April 12th, 1833.

The Shire where her early girlhood days were spent was an agricultural district. Every acre of land highly cultivated. Alton was the nearest town and Basingstoke a little further away was where they did most of their trading.

As she talked with gentle English accent we forget America's broad expanse of field yet uncultivated, and dwelt in imagination with her in the old country across the sea.

In an attractive way she describes the scenes about her old home in England.

You see the ivy-covered walls, the cozy cottage with woodbine lattice, the gardens with flowers and herbs, the paths marked off and framed in with box, bordered with apple and nectarine trees; their branches neatly trimmed and trellised and laden with delicious fruit.

The gooseberry and currant bushes and smaller fruit growing in abundance in the garden.

We see the shrubbery and the low hedge of living green. Hazel and thorn growing by the road side.

She particularly emphasizes the fact that every foot of ground was utilized. And while no big orchards were to be seen, but dotted here and there against buildings a prolific tree is bearing fruit.

The farm stretches away in the distance, broken only by small patches of timber trees of elm, English oak and walnut.

Within these copses, a few wild blackberries grew. Hawthorn and crabapple filled the air with their fragrance.

As we enjoy the picture she portrays, the odor of the crabapple and hawthorn are wafted to us in the morning air of the spring when she was a little girl of perhaps eight years of age.

A prophecy that the Judgment Day was coming had stirred all the country over. Many had studied about and feared it so much they lost their reason. Many had prepared their shrouds for the final day. But the mother of our little girl was a very intelligent woman and quieted the fears of her children by telling them that no one knew when that event would come. Not even the angels in heaven.

The day of the expected calamity came. With her father's breakfast she started from home that dewey morning, breathing in the pure air, fragrant with the perfume of blossoms as she went to the barn where her father had gone to work very early threshing wheat with a flail.

She listened to the song of the birds as she went down the road over the stile and along the path by the side of a beautiful green hedge to the spot where her father was threshing the wheat.

She was happy and light hearted as she trudged along thinking what a nice day it was for the Judgment Day, but nothing happened. Everything moved along smoothly as usual and the excited people calmly took up the daily routine of life again.

Ten more years of life in England. The twin girls, Emily and Eliza Batt, were now young women. Letters from William Forder and others of their English friends who were comfortably settled in Washington County, Indiana, induced them to come to the United States. So in the fall of 1850 they bad goodbye to their native land and

started on their tedious journey across the Atlantic on a sail ship.

In spite of the fact that there were thirteen of them in their party they landed safely in New Orleans, Louisiana, in December, after being on the ocean six weeks and two days.

Strangers in a strange land they were anxious to reach their destination and immediately took passage on the "Hungaria" and were more than ten days and nights coming up the Mississippi and Ohio to New Albany, Indiana.

They arrived there on Saturday morning just after the passenger train had left for Salem which was the terminus of the Monon road at that time. This was very annoying as there was but one train a day going north and none at all on Sunday.

They were told that a train would go out to Salem that day to get a load of hogs, and being very eager to reach their new home, they gladly boarded the freight train and were very comfortable.

When the train arrived at Pekin the hogs had been sent there for loading and so the train went no farther and they were compelled to spend the night there. It was raining. They sought shelter and food at the Persise Hotel. Already over full with regular boarders, they gave the best they could to their guests over night.

The next morning they hired a man to take them overland. The carry-all was not large enough for the party and four of the men walked. These were James Batt, the father, and his son, Stephen, who afterwards became a soldier in the civil war and lost his life at Chichamaugee; David Batt, a brother of James, and Charles Carter who was engaged to Emily Batt, and whom he married about a year after they came to Washington County.

James and David Batt carried hawthorn sticks which they had brought from their old home. Through the rain, across the swollen streams of Blue River, the party came arriving in Salem Sunday afternoon. The first person to greet them was Dawson Lyons, an old friend from England. They then went to Highland Creek for the night, going on the next morning to their new home west of town, visiting a few days with Fred Batt who had come from England to Washington County about two years before. William Batt, the oldest son of James Batt, had come also at that time.

James Batt and his brothers all settled in Washington County just west of Salem where they continued to reside until their death many years later.